

Message Text

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SUBJECT: SECRETARY KISSINGER'S PRESS CONFERENCE

FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM THE SECRETARY'S APRIL 22 PRESS
CONFERENCE CONCERNING LATIN AMERICA:

Q: MR. SECRETARY, WHAT ARE THE CUBANS AND THE SOVIET UNION
DOING AT THIS PARTICULAR TIME? ANGOLA IS NOW MORE OR LESS
OVER. IS THERE STILL A FLOW OF SOVIET ARMS? IS THERE STILL
A REPLACEMENT OR CONTINUING LEVEL OF CUBAN FORCES IN ANGOLA?
AND WHAT IS YOUR PERCEPTION OF WHAT THE CUBAN SURROGATE
FORCES WILL BE DOING NEXT?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: THE PRESENT LEVEL OF CUBAN FORCES IN
AFRICA, INCLUDING ALL THE COUNTRIES, IS IN EXCESS OF
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15,000. OUR ESTIMATE OF CUBAN FORCES IN ANGOLA IS 13,000

OR 14,000. THERE HAS BEEN SOME ROTATION. THAT IS, SOME TROOPS HAVE BEEN REPLACED BY OTHER, MORE TECHNICAL PERSONNEL. BUT THE TOTAL NUMBER OF CUBAN FORCES IN ANGOLA IS ROUGHLY AT THE LEVEL AT WHICH IT HAS BEEN SINCE THE END OF JANUARY.

WE RECEIVE CONFLICTING REPORTS ABOUT WHAT CUBAN FORCES ARE DOING IN OTHER PARTS OF AFRICA OR WHETHER CUBAN FORCES FROM ANGOLA ARE BEING MOVED FROM ANGOLA TO OTHER AREAS. WE HAVE HAD NO CONFIRMED REPORTS, BUT WE HAVE WARNED REPEATEDLY THAT THE USE OF CUBAN SURROGATE FORCES IS GOING TO INCREASE INTERNATIONAL TENSIONS ENORMOUSLY AND IS GOING TO BE INCOMPATIBLE WITH THE RELAXATION OF TENSIONS AND IS GOING TO BE A VERY DANGEROUS COURSE.

LATER

Q: MR. SECRETARY, THERE SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN SOMETHING OF A DISPARITY BETWEEN YOUR STATEMENTS ON RELATIONS WITH CUBA AND THE PRESIDENT'S. THE PRESIDENT SAID THAT IT WAS ALL OVER IN ATTEMPTS TO ACHIEVE SOME KIND OF NORMALIZATION. YOU SAID IT WAS INTERRUPTED. AND THE PRESIDENT SAID THAT CASTRO WAS AN INTERNATIONAL OUTLAW, AND YOU DIDN'T.

I ASK NOW, IN LIGHT OF THIS APPARENT DISPARITY, WHAT HAS TO BE DONE TO GET SOME KIND OF ATTEMPT AT NORMALIZATION WITH CUBA GOING AGAIN? AND HOW DO YOU IMPLEMENT THE HIJACKING AGREEMENT WITH A MAN WHO HAS BEEN TERMED AN INTERNATIONAL OUTLAW?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: THE PRESIDENT HAS A MORE PLASTIC WAY OF EXPRESSING HIMSELF THAN I DO--OR I MAY HAVE A MORE COMPLICATED WAY OF EXPRESSING MYSELF.

WE, OF COURSE, ARE PREPARED TO IMPLEMENT THE HIJACKING AGREEMENT, AND WE DO NOT APPROVE OF ANY ACTIVITIES THAT MAY BE MOUNTED FROM AMERICAN TERRITORY AGAINST CUBAN SHIPPING.

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THERE IS NO POSSIBILITY OF CONTINUING ANY DISCUSSIONS WITH CUBA ABOUT NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS AS LONG AS CUBAN MILITARY FORCES ARE STATIONED IN AFRICA, AND AS LONG AS CUBA CONTINUES THE ATTACKS ON AMERICA, ON AMERICAN POLICY IN PUERTO RICO AND ELSEWHERE.

SO, UNLESS THERE IS A SUBSTANTIAL CHANGE IN CUBAN ATTITUDES, THE PROCESS OF IMPROVING RELATIONS CAN BE

CONSIDERED SUSPENDED.

LATER

Q: ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS CALLED IN CHILEAN JUNTA AMBASSADOR MANUEL TRUCCO TO CRITICIZE THE CONTINUING VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THAT COUNTRY, AND PARTICULARLY HARASSMENT OF THE CHILEANS WHO HAD MET WITH U.S. CONGRESSMEN IN CHILE RECENTLY. THIS WOULD SEEM TO INDICATE ADMINISTRATION DISPLEASURE WITH THE

MILITARY REGIME'S POLICIES. BUT, AT THE SAME TIME, IT HAS BEEN ANNOUNCED THAT YOU PLAN TO ATTEND THE OAS MEETING IN SANTIAGO IN JUNE, AND THAT POSSIBILITY HAS BEEN CRITICIZED BY SOME AS ONE THAT WOULD LEGITIMIZE THAT DICTATORSHIP'S POLICIES. DO YOU PLAN TO ATTEND THE MEETING, AND COULD YOU PLEASE RESPOND TO THE CRITICISM?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: THE MEETING IN SANTIAGO IS A MEETING OF ALL THE FOREIGN MINISTERS OF THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE. IT IS A MEETING OF THE OAS IN SANTIAGO. ALL OTHER FOREIGN MINISTERS, WITH ONE POSSIBLE EXCEPTION, ARE PLANNING TO ATTEND.

THE PURPOSE OF MY VISIT TO THIS MEETING WOULD BE TO CONTINUE DISCUSSIONS ABOUT OUR WESTERN HEMISPHERE POLICY WITH MY LATIN AMERICAN COLLEAGUES. AND WHEN I GO, IF I GO, WHICH IS HIGHLY PROBABLE, I WOULD PLAN TO VISIT THOSE COUNTRIES IN LATIN AMERICA, OR MOST OF THOSE COUNTRIES IN LATIN AMERICA, THAT I DID NOT HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO VISIT ON MY FIRST TRIP.

Q: MR. SECRETARY, ISN'T THE NEGOTIATION ON THE PANAMA UNCLASSIFIED

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CANAL AN EXAMPLE OF THE SORT OF THING THAT IS BEING DEFERRED UNTIL AFTER THE ELECTION? AND IN THAT CONNECTION, DOESN'T THE CONTROVERSY OVER THE CANAL IN A WAY HELP YOUR NEGOTIATING POSITION TO SHOW HOW MUCH OPPOSITION, AND HOW SLOWLY YOU HAVE TO GO?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: WELL, I DON'T WANT TO ENCOURAGE ANY MORE OF THE STATEMENTS WHICH WE HAVE SUFFERED WITH RESPECT TO THE PANAMA CANAL.

WITH RESPECT TO THE PANAMA CANAL, THERE ARE A NUMBER OF KEY ISSUES THAT HAVE TO BE SETTLED BEFORE WE CAN BE SURE THAT AN AGREEMENT IS POSSIBLE.

WE BELIEVE THAT THE BASIC ISSUE IS UNDER WHAT CONDITIONS

THE FREE AND OPEN AND NEUTRAL ACCESS THROUGH THE CANAL, WHICH IS ESSENTIAL FOR THE UNITED STATES, CAN BEST BE GUARANTEED; AND UNDER WHAT CONDITIONS OUR RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE, WITH OTHER NATIONS OF THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE, CAN BEST BE PRESERVED.

IT IS OUR JUDGMENT THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS THAT ARE NOW GOING ON ARE THE BEST WAY OF DOING THIS. THEIR PACE IS IMPORTANTLY DETERMINED BY THE ABILITY TO SETTLE SPECIFIC ISSUES, AND THE DEGREE TO WHICH THE CURRENT DEBATE INFLUENCES THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS CAN BE ARGUED ON BOTH SIDES.

LATER

Q: MR. SECRETARY, THE PRESIDENT SAID, AS I UNDERSTAND HIM THAT HIS PURPOSE IN THE PANAMA CANAL NEGOTIATIONS IS TO RETAIN U.S. RIGHTS TO CONTROL, MAINTENANCE AND DEFENSE THROUGH THE LIFE OF THE PENDING TREATY.

IS THAT YOUR PERCEPTION OF THE NEGOTIATIONS? IS THAT THE PERCEPTION OF THE PANAMANIANS, AS YOU UNDERSTAND IT?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: THAT IS SUBSTANTIALLY MY PERCEPTION OF THE NEGOTIATIONS.
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BUT IN ANY EVENT, THE UNITED STATES, REGARDLESS OF CONTROL AND DEFENSE ARRANGEMENTS, WILL INSIST ON THE PERMANENT, FREE AND NEUTRAL AND OPEN PASSAGE OF AMERICAN SHIPS THROUGH THE CANAL.

Q: IS THE UNITED STATES WILLING TO SHARE CONTROL AND MAINTENANCE DURING THE LIFE OF THE TREATY?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: THAT IS CORRECT. SISCO

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